Creation of Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF)

16. The policy initiatives announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech of 29.2.2008, *interalia*, contains action points relating to tiger protection, Based on the one time grant of Rs. 50.00 crore provided to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for raising, arming and deploying a Special Tiger Protection Force, the proposal for the said force has been approved by the competent authority for 13 tiger reserves. Rs. 93 lakhs each has been released to Corbett, Ranthambhore & Dudhwa Tiger Reserve for creation of STPF during 2008-09. Central Assistance will be provided to States for creation of STPF in remaining 10 Tiger Reserves in 2009-10.

Issues at global climate change talks

1678. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state the major issues on which there is a lack of consensus at the global climate change talks and what is our position on those issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the major issues that are currently being discussed in pursuance of the Bali Action Plan relate to shared vision for long-term cooperative action including a global goal for emission reduction, mitigation, adaptation, technology and finance. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the negotiations are taking place with a view to determine the emission reduction targets for Annex I Parties to the Convention during the second commitment period (post 2012). Parties are negotiating on these issues and are expected to reach an agreed outcome at the 15th Conference of Parties scheduled in Copenhagen in December 2009.

India has argued at these negotiations that the developed country Parties must take actions in accordance with the principle of equity and "common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities" in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Such actions of the developed (Annex I Parties to the Convention) countries should include deep and ambitions targets for emission reduction in the second commitment period (Post-2012) of the Kyoto Protocol.

Habitat for big cats

1679. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 1,411 big cats are left in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to give habitat for their sustenance in each State, especially in Andhra Pradesh forest areas?